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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon authorization, I would like to state the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in reference to the confrontational purpose announced by south Korea as it runs for candidature to become a member of the Human Rights Council for the 2016-2018 term.

The south Korean authorities circulated a note verbale requesting support for its candidature as contained in General Assembly document (A/70/88) dated 27 May 2015.

In the document, they openly declared their confrontational commitment against the DPRK by claiming that if they are elected as a member of the Human Rights Council, they would contribute to the effective operation of the field office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in south Korea, to be set up pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution on the situation of human rights in the DPRK.

It is a political and rash act itself for the south Korean authorities to run for candidature to become a Human Rights Council member. The "achievements" and "commitments" described in the document are nothing more than a bunch of empty words to cloak their shameful human rights records.

First, the south Korean authorities cruelly oppress the human rights of their own people with all kinds of evil laws against humanity, including the draconian and infamous "National Security Law", and have turned south Korea into the wilderness of human rights as shown by the tragic fate of the passenger ferry *Sewol*.

Dreaming only of a fictitious "unification of systems", they wield the "National Security Law" to suppress the activities of the political parties, social organizations and people for improved inter-Korean relations and independent and

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peaceful reunification, labeling them as "forces following the north" and "acts benefiting the enemy".

Amid the exponential increment of unemployed people, especially among youths, the working people who are suffering from various kinds of industrial accidents and murderous labour are waging strikes to demand their human rights, including the right to subsistence. However, they are ruthlessly cracked down upon as illegal.

It is the true feature of the south Korean authorities that caused such a catastrophic disaster as the burying at sea of hundreds of young lives aboard the ferry *Sewol* and yet mercilessly crushed the memorial services of the victims' families and citizens by firing toxic tear gas against them.

Second, the south Korean authorities, in collusion with foreign forces, squashed people to death with military tanks, violated the national dignity and the right to self-determination and, furthermore, have been committing criminal acts to bring the Korean Peninsula to the brink of a war.

As south Korea is a colony whose sovereign rights, including its military prerogatives, have been handed over to the United States, it does not lodge even a word of protest when the US aggression forces on its land kill citizens and young students with military tanks and perpetrate terrifying crimes of all sorts against humanity such as murder, rape, robbery and violence.

Moreover, the south Korean authorities are pitifully obliged to protect and back up the United States when it brings into south Korea at random weapons of mass destruction like nuclear weapons and anthrax, which can exterminate the whole Korean nation, and conducts nuclear bombing exercises.

Having defined their fellow countrymen as the "enemy", they trample underfoot the living ground of the nation by waging aggressive war exercises with the United States one after another every year with the goal of "occupying Pyongyang".

Third, the authorities established the "United Nations human rights office" in south Korea, which serves as a hotbed of "anti-DPRK human rights" plots and an extreme manifestation of politicization of human rights, thus abusing the United Nations human rights arena as a confrontational ground to smear and slander their fellow countrymen.

As stated on several occasions, the DPRK totally rejects the report of the commission of inquiry on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and the "United Nations office on human rights".

Recently, the DPRK Government made a statement on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of publication of the historic 15 June Joint Declaration, by which it put forward a principled position and fair and above-board ways to improve prevailing inter-Korean relations as early as possible and to open up a turning phase for national reconciliation and unity by our nation itself.

And it repeatedly warned against the "United Nations human rights office", which would result in head-on confrontation between the north and the south of Korea.

However, the south Korean authorities, hell-bent on confrontation with their compatriots, desperately set up the "United Nations human rights office" in Seoul, thus completely blocking the road to improved inter-Korean relations and driving the situation on the Korean Peninsula to an unpredictable phase.

By nature, they care nothing about the protection and promotion of the genuine human rights of the popular masses. What they did as a member of the Human Rights Council in the past was to go amok as a shock brigade in the anti-DPRK "human rights" move on the basis of the information fabricated by the human scum who make a living, taking a few dollars.

We categorically reject the candidature of south Korea, a total sum of impotence and humiliation, for membership on the Human Rights Council together with the "United Nations human rights office", which constitutes direct confrontation against the DPRK.

We also request all States Members of the United Nations to reject south Korea's candidature in conformity with the principles of opposing politicization and confrontation in the field of human rights.

Enclosed herewith is the statement of the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK dated 23 June 2015 denouncing the establishment of the "United Nations human rights office" in south Korea.

I kindly request that you have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under item 114(e) of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry

The spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry issued the following statement on 23 June 2015:

The dishonest, hostile forces are getting extremely reckless and provocative in their moves to tarnish the dignity and image of the DPRK and bring down its ideology and social system at any cost under the pretext of the "human rights issue", which is non-existent.

The hostile forces finally set up the ghost-like "United Nations office of human rights" in south Korea despite the repeated warnings of the DPRK and strong protest by different countries and their peoples.

This is a hideous, politically motivated provocation challenging the dignity and social system of the DPRK and a criminal act of escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula and in the region and inciting confrontation under the pretext of "protecting human rights".

The hostile forces are advertising the establishment of the "office" as pursuant to the "resolution" of the Human Rights Council, but they can never cover up their true colors as plot-breeders.

The DPRK categorically opposed and rejected the "human rights resolution" railroaded through the twenty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council in March 2014 as it was a product of the vicious and hostile policy of the US towards the DPRK. The DPRK, therefore, will never recognize the "office" set up pursuant to the "resolution".

The DPRK vehemently condemns the ruckus of setting up the "office" in Seoul as another form of the anti-DPRK "human rights" campaign launched by the hostile forces seized with inveterate repugnance towards the DPRK.

The south Korean puppet authorities have turned south Korea into a tundra of human rights by invoking the "Security Law" and other evil laws. It is the height of impudence for them to have taken the lead in setting up such an "office", speaking volumes about the "human rights issue" in the DPRK.

They allowed the setting up of the "office" in Seoul although no country in the world dared do so. This is anachronistic behaviour and a grave provocation pushing the inter-Korean confrontation to an extreme phase, contrary to the desire of all Koreans for improved inter-Korean relations.

It is as clear as day that the "office" is no more than a centre for gathering misinformation cooked up by "defectors from the north" and other riff-raff to earn money as it is set to implement the US hostile policy towards the DPRK from A to Z.

It is ridiculous indeed for the US and other hostile forces to work hard to save the anti-DPRK "human rights" campaign from bankruptcy by patronizing the human scum who eke out their living through false propaganda.

It is no more than a daydream for them to try to do harm to the DPRK, standing highly dignified for its independence and Songun, by employing such base means and methods as setting up the "office".

The DPRK will decisively foil the reckless "human rights" racket against the DPRK through the toughest resolute counteractions.